

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
INDIANAPOLIS DIVISION**

In re: BRIDGESTONE/FIRESTONE, INC.,) Master File No. IP 00-9373-C-B/S
TIRES PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION) MDL NO. 1373
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THIS DOCUMENT RELATES TO ALL)
ACTIONS)

ENTRY FOR JANUARY 22, 2002

The parties appeared, by counsel, this date for a telephonic status conference, during which the subject of scheduling depositions in the “foreign accident” cases in this MDL was discussed. In light of the large number of depositions that remain to be taken in those cases, the magistrate judge directs the following:

1. The deponents shall be divided into the following categories:
 - a. Parties
 - b. “Critical” Medical Professionals
 - c. “Non-Critical” Medical Professionals
 - d. “Critical” Police/Fire/Rescue Personnel
 - e. “Non-critical” Police/Fire/Rescue Personnel
 - f. Eyewitnesses and other fact witnesses
2. To the extent possible, at least five depositions which do not fall into the “non-critical” category shall be scheduled for each day of depositions. However, these depositions shall be scheduled so that no plaintiffs’ attorney or law firm is scheduled for more than one such deposition at a time.¹ “Non-critical” depositions may be double-tracked; that is, one plaintiffs’ attorney may be scheduled for two simultaneous “non-critical” depositions, with the expectation that another attorney from his or her firm can assist with non-critical depositions.
3. In light of the large number of cases in which the plaintiffs are represented by Victor Diaz, the magistrate judge will, if necessary, reexamine the issue of double tracking Mr. Diaz’s “critical” depositions after all of the depositions in the cases in which Mr. Diaz is not involved have been scheduled.²

¹In light of the substantial number of different plaintiffs’ attorneys who have filed these cases, this should not be difficult.

²Mr. Eidson, who also represents a substantial number of plaintiffs, has agreed to double track critical depositions as necessary.

4. To the extent possible, the parties will prioritize the deposition schedule so that depositions that may be relevant to expert reports and party depositions for which substantially complete responses to written discovery requests have been provided shall be scheduled first.
5. A plaintiff shall serve substantially complete responses to written discovery requests at least 5 calendar days prior to that plaintiff's deposition.

ENTERED this _____ day of January 2002.

V. Sue Shields
United States Magistrate Judge
Southern District of Indiana

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